

THE SAN FRANCISCO BULLETIN.

In its issue of January 15, 1919, the San Francisco "Bulletin," one of the city's evening newspapers, responds to the goad of the editorial, entitled "Fear and Epidemics," in the December issue of the JOURNAL. The "Bulletin" demonstrates the weakness of its position by refusing to answer the questions raised, by entirely misrepresenting the JOURNAL editorial, and by indulging in cheap wit where logic and facts furnish no defense. It invites "the editor who is so enamored of scientific truth as to the relation of fear to epidemics" to "read the recent report of Dr. Royal C. Copeland, Health Commissioner of New York." The editor in question read this report fresh from the press and has also read and digested practically all of the influenza and epidemic literature which has appeared in this country and Europe in the past year, a situation which the "Bulletin" gives no evidence of having achieved. The "Bulletin" states: "If scientific authorities like the STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE and a few physicians who feel affronted by the 'Bulletin's' position will permit a lay question it may be couched in this language: Is it not a fact that fear or worry will cause indigestion and a resultant lack of assimilation of food, and will not such lack of assimilation reduce physical resistance to disease? And is not this merely one of many aspects of the relation of fear to epidemics?" To answer the latter question first. This is but one of many aspects of the relation of fear to epidemics, a fact which was emphasized in the JOURNAL editorial in December. It is *not* the entire situation as maintained by the original articles in the "Bulletin." It is a pleasure to see the "Bulletin" reverse itself in this abrupt fashion. To answer the first question, we quote from the editorial in the December issue of the JOURNAL. (Too bad the editor of the "Bulletin" was so upset that he did not notice it!) "Yes, so the public is warned and has been warned by the medical profession for these many years that fear of disease is a serious pathological agent, and so did Cannon demonstrate and establish, on a clear experimental scientific basis by careful laboratory investigation, of the influence of emotions on physiology." And then the last paragraph of the JOURNAL editorial in December: "There is virtue in the idea of mental health and hygiene, of spiritual poise and fearlessness, of mastery of body and mind. These represent the enduring ideal and hope of the medical profession. It is discouraging and nauseating to see these great truths warped and mishandled in half-baked ignorance by Eddyistic and other faddists."

There are certain direct charges and questions in the JOURNAL editorial which the "Bulletin" sees fit to ignore. Why? Since the editor of the "Bulletin" finds the JOURNAL editorial so amusing and yet worthy of comment to the extent of two-thirds of the "Bulletin's" entire editorial column, would it not be well for him to give his readers an opportunity to share his amusement? It seems to us it would, and the "Bulletin" is therefore, and hereby challenged to publish the editorial entitled "Fear and Epidemics," which

appeared in the December issue of the JOURNAL, and to answer said editorial paragraph by paragraph.

A DEBT TO HEROES.

The Fifth Liberty Loan will be known as the Victory Loan. Victory is not merely a matter of jubilation, accepting surrender of a beaten foe and dropping the gun to take up the plowshare in the furrow where it stood when the call to arms came. The Victory Loan is one of the many great obligations that come to the victors. President Wilson and the members of the American peace delegation are now in France looking after the world obligations. Our part now is to prepare to pay in small measure the debt we owe our khaki and blue clad champions.

A large part of the money to be raised in the Victory Loan campaign next April will be used for the rehabilitation of our wounded men. The Government will do its utmost to restore every wounded American soldier and sailor to health and self-supporting activity.

When the wounded man has been given complete medical and surgical treatment he will be considered by the Federal Board for Vocational Education. If his disability prevents return to work he left at the call of the Government a wide choice of occupation is open to him.

If the injured man needs an artificial limb or appliance of any sort the Government will provide it. Until his special treatment or training ends he will receive regular compensation and the family will receive the allotments. The war risk insurance will be paid until the end of the vocational training if the course is elected without necessity, but in this case the allotments will not be paid the family.

Instead of finding dependent cripples and beggars made so by an unappreciative country, they will be highly trained heroes whose sacrifices will not be tarnished by lack of gratitude.

If you are worth victory, prepare now to buy Victory Bonds.

FAT EMBOLISM AND SHOCK.¹

Fat embolism is very much more common than usually supposed and evidences of it are not infrequent at autopsy. Warthin in 1913 collected 350 cases in which death was attributed to fat embolism. Milder degrees are much more common, and probably the great majority are either unrecognized or unreported. One of the commonest causes is fracture or even severe bruising of bones. Probably every fracture results in more or less pulmonary fat embolism. Bruising of soft parts may also result in embolism, and even operative trauma is at times responsible. Fat subjects are more inclined to it than lean. The condition is also found post mortem in certain diseases, as in nephritis and tuberculosis.

The fat from the marrow or other depot is taken up by veins and lymphatics and deposited in the capillary system of the lungs, the first circulatory obstruction it meets. Long, solid, worm-

¹ See Daily Review of Foreign Press, British War Office, Dec. 1, 1918.